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State government to gift Khadi clothes to its employees; first phase to start in January
Implementation of this programme is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and a way towards
***Atmanirbhar* Assam: CM**

Dispur, January 8: In a move to pay tributes to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and his movement for Khadi, State government taking forward its decision will provide khadi shirt, endi shawl and endi stole to Grade IV male and female employees in a phased manner. The first phase to be started in the month of January.

Chairing a meeting to expedite the process of giving free khadi clothes to the State government employees, Sonowal said that the initiative has been taken in the true spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and State government's series of activities for making Assam self-reliant. Sonowal while taking a note on the steps taken by the Handloom and Textile Department to implement the programme, asked Minister for Handloom and Textile Ranjit Dutta to ensure its successful and expeditious implementation. He also said that the government's decision to gift khadi clothes to its employees would strengthen the khadi industry in the state. The move will empower local weavers as nearly 80 thousand khadi shirts, stoles and shawls would be required to be knitted in the first phase to gift the government employees, Sonowal added.

Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Khadi industry is the pride of local industry. Promotion of this industry will amount to endorsing of an ideology of self-reliance and empowerment of every single man and woman". Taking stock of the works of Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board, Sonowal reiterated the need for strengthening the Board for giving khadi and village industries a fresh lease of life. He said that government would take steps for opening new outlets to sell khadi clothes. He also said that giving adequate importance to khadi industries will amount to showing tributes to Mahatma Gandhi who guided India towards independence.

Minister for Handloom and Textiles Ranjit Dutta, Chairman Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board Dr. Kamala Kalita, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Paban Kumar Borthakur and other senior officers of the government were present at the meeting.

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